

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Previously presented) A system for accomplishing localized feature forming or localized joining in one or more sheets of material, comprising:

a die having a cavity for imparting a shaped feature to said one or more sheets of material;

a projectile firing device in substantial alignment with said cavity, said projectile firing device for propelling a projectile into said one or more sheets of material;

a projectile adapted to be propelled from said projectile firing device into said one or more sheets of material, said projectile for forcing at least a portion of said one or more sheets of material into said cavity to impart said shape thereto, wherein said projectile is not in physical contact with said projectile firing device as said projectile forces at least a portion of one or more sheets of material into said cavity.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said one or more sheets of material are metallic.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said projectile is deformable.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said projectile is comprised of a metallic material.

5. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said projectile is comprised of plastic.

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said projectile is comprised of a liquid.

7. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said projectile is comprised of ice.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said projectile is of substantially the same shape as said cavity.

9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said projectile firing device employs compressed gas to propel said projectile.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said projectile firing device employs an explosive charge to propel said projectile.

11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said projectile firing device employs an electrical charge to propel said projectile.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an enclosure that encapsulates at least a portion of said projectile firing device and said area of said one or more sheets of material that will be impacted by said projectile.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a means for securing the position of said one or more sheets of material during the impact of said projectile.

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13, wherein said securing means is a vacuum.

15. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein said securing means is magnetic.

16. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein multiple sheets of material are used.

17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 16, wherein said multiple sheets are joined via an interlocking shape produced by the forcing of at least a portion of said multiple sheets of material into said cavity by said projectile.

18. (Currently amended) The system of claim 16, wherein said multiple sheets are joined via a metallurgical bond produced therebetween by the forcing of at least a portion of said multiple sheets of material into said cavity by said projectile.

19. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said multiple sheets are joined via both an interlocking shape and a metallurgical bond produced therebetween by the forcing of at least a portion of said multiple sheets of material into said cavity by said projectile.

20. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the velocity of said projectile is between about 50 and about 2,000 feet per second at the time it contacts said one or more sheets of material.

21. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a means for releasably securing a secondary component within said die cavity, said secondary component adapted for attachment to said one or more sheets of material by the impact of said projectile.

46. (Previously presented) A system for accomplishing localized feature forming in a metallic sheet, comprising:

- a die having a cavity for imparting a shaped feature to said metallic sheet, said die adapted to reside near said metallic sheet such that said cavity lies subjacent thereto;

- a projectile firing device in substantial alignment with said cavity, said projectile firing device for propelling a projectile at a high velocity into said metallic sheet;
- and

- a deformable projectile adapted to be propelled from said projectile firing device into said metallic sheet at a point that is in substantial alignment with said subjacent cavity, said deformable projectile for forcing at least a portion of said

metallic sheet into said cavity to impart said shape thereto, wherein said deformable projectile is not in physical contact with said projectile firing device as said deformable projectile forces at least a portion of said metallic sheet into said cavity.

47. (Original) The system of claim 46, wherein said deformable projectile is comprised of a metallic material.

48. (Previously presented) The system of claim 46, wherein said deformable projectile is comprised of plastic.

49. (Previously presented) The system of claim 46, wherein said deformable projectile is comprised of a liquid.

50. (Previously presented) The system of claim 46, wherein said deformable projectile is comprised of ice.

51. (Original) The system of claim 46, wherein said projectile is of substantially the same shape as said cavity.

52. (Original) The system of claim 46, further comprising a means for securing the position of said one or more metallic sheets during the impact of said deformable projectile.

53. (Previously presented) The system of claim 52, wherein said securing means is a vacuum.

54. (Original) The system of claim 52, wherein said securing means is magnetic.

Claims 55 – 72 (canceled).

88. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13, wherein said securing means is mechanical.

89. (Previously presented) The system of claim 52, wherein said securing means is mechanical.

Claims 90 and 91 (canceled)